



ELECTION FOCUS 2008



April 30, 2008

No. 5

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CAMPAIGN 2008



[INTERACTIVE: The 2008 Presidential Candidates](#)

(By washingtonpost.com)

[The Trail](#) – The daily diary - Washington Post reporters file updates from the 2008 campaign trail.

[OBAMA AND SMALL-TOWN AMERICA Many important votes lie outside cities and suburbs](#)

– *Center for Politics, April 24, 2008* - Barack Obama caused quite a stir a fortnight ago when he told a suburban San Francisco fund raiser that small-town Pennsylvania voters were "bitter" about their economic plight...As political comments go, it was a self-inflicted "twofer".

[Voting Gets Harder in Florida](#) – *NPR, April 28, 2008* - In an effort to minimize problems on election day, Florida has become the hardest state in which to vote. *New York Times* reporter Damien Cave tells Madeleine Brand about new voting restrictions there.

[Supreme Court Approves Voter ID Requirement](#) - *NPR, April 28, 2008* - Indiana holds its presidential primaries next week, and the Supreme Court today ruled that the state can require voters to show a picture ID. *Slate.com* legal analyst Dahlia Lithwick explains how this decision could affect the remaining presidential primaries and the general election in November.

[Female factor: White women could be swing vote May 6](#) - An *Indianapolis Star-WTHR (Channel 13, April 29, 2008)* poll shows Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama essentially splitting the votes of all Hoosier women, with about 41 percent backing Obama and 40 percent backing Clinton. But among white women, Clinton is way ahead, winning the support of 48 percent compared with 29 percent for Obama.

[McCain at Miami's Children Hospital](#) – *Real Clear Politics, April 28, 2008* ... "Despite its many virtues, the health care system as a whole does not mirror the successes in this room. As a nation, we do not uniformly deliver the best possible care. Shortfalls in patient safety and medical errors remain a dangerous reality, and too many Americans do not have health insurance."...

[Transcript: Barack Obama on 'FOX News Sunday'](#) - *April 27, 2008* ... Barack Obama — his candidacy changed the Democratic race for president as he moved from contender to frontrunner. But recently, he suffered a series of big defeats.

Hillary Clinton's Plan to Address Soaring Prices at the Pump – from the website - <http://www.hillaryclinton.com> This plan builds on Hillary's long-term plan to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and address global warming. She has committed moving America towards energy independence by cutting foreign oil imports by two-thirds from 2030 projected levels, more than 10 million barrels per day.

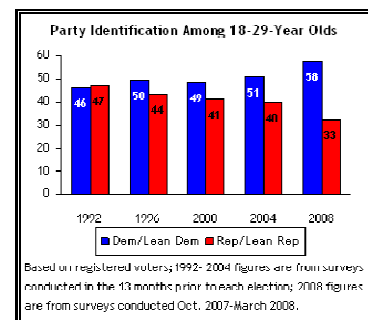
HOW COULD JOHN McCAIN WIN IN NOVEMBER? History versus circumstance in the general election - *Center for Politics, April 17, 2008* - Based on 220 years of precedent, a McCain win would be a striking repudiation of American history, since no presidential candidate of a two-term incumbent party has ever been elected under this set of severely adverse conditions.

POLLS

Voters Trust McCain More than Either Democratic Candidate on Key Issues – Rasmussen Reports, April 26, 2008 - On a series of key Election 2008 issues, voters generally trust Democrats more than Republicans on most key electoral issues. At the same time, however, John McCain is trusted more than Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama on these issues. This ability of McCain to outperform the party label helps explain why he is competitive with the Democrats in national polling.

Election 2008: Electoral College Update: Electoral College: Democrats 200 Republicans 189 Leaners 111 Toss-Up 38 - Rasmussen Reports, April 29, 2008 - Twelve states with 149 Electoral Votes are either a pure Toss-Up or just slightly leaning to one party or the other. These are likely to be the early battleground states of Election 2008: Florida (27), Pennsylvania (21), Ohio (20), Michigan (17), Virginia (13), Missouri (11), Wisconsin (10), Colorado (9), Iowa (7), Nevada (5), New Mexico (5), and New Hampshire (4).

Gen Dems: The Party's Advantage Among Young Voters Widens – Pew Research Center, April 28, 2008 - Trends in the opinions of America's youngest voters are often a barometer of shifting political winds. And that appears to be the case in 2008. The current generation of young voters, who came of age during the George W. Bush years, is leading the way in giving the Democrats a wide advantage in party identification...



Obama's Catholic Voter Problem? - Pew Research Center, April 25, 2008 - Barack Obama lost the Catholic vote in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary by more than a two-to-one margin despite his campaign's extensive Catholic outreach efforts. Among Pennsylvania Democrats, exit polls also showed significant differences in candidate preference between those who attend worship services at least once a week and those who never attend at all. Senior Fellow John Green and Associate Director Mark O'Keefe discussed these findings and looked ahead to the contests in Indiana and North Carolina.

Is Former President Bill Clinton More of an Asset or a Liability to Senator Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign? - The Harris Poll® #48, April 29, 2008 - Former President Bill Clinton has received a lot of criticism during the primary election campaign and many people see him as more of a liability than an asset to his wife's bid for the White House. More people (46%) see him as a liability than see him as an asset (37%). However, a 49 percent to 40 percent plurality thinks that he helps his wife's campaign more than he harms it.

BEST of the WEB

Candidates on the Issues

A quick look at the candidates' views on key issues:

New York Times on the Issues: Iraq



Hillary Clinton
Democratic Senator from New York

Voted in 2002 to authorize invasion, now opposed; opposed troop increase; start phased withdrawal within 60 days of taking office, with the goal to have most troops out by the end of 2013.



Barack Obama
Democratic Senator from Illinois

Opposed invasion from the beginning; opposed troop increase; withdraw one or two brigades a month to finish within 16 months.



John McCain
Republican Senator from Arizona

Voted in 2002 to authorize invasion, still supportive; in favor of troop increase; against a timetable for troop withdrawal.

More issues from NYT:

[Abortion](#) | [Climate Change](#) | [Economy/Taxes](#) | [Health Care](#) | [Housing](#) | [Immigration](#) | [Iran](#)

[The Candidates on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#) – Council on Foreign Relations, April 23, 2008 - For decades, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict complicated and, indeed, sometimes undermined U.S. diplomatic goals in the Middle East and beyond. Click [here](#) for this candidate's position on other top foreign policy issues.

A look at the remaining candidates and their stances on some of the [key issues - AP](#) - Associated Press.



America.gov
Telling America's Story

[America.gov](#) – Top Issues:

[Iraq](#) | [Security](#) | [Immigration](#) | [Climate Change](#) | [International Relations](#) | [Education](#)
[The Economy](#) | [Health Care](#) | [Trade](#) |

[Wikipedia: 2008 U.S. Presidential Election](#) - includes a timeline of events leading to the elections and a list of potential candidates.

[BuzzTracker: Presidential Race 2008](#) - continuously updated list of the most linked-to articles in the blogosphere.

Election Calendar



[NPR](#) (National Public Radio) - [2008 Election Map](#) – interactive map, calendar, candidates, latest news

[2008 Republican Primary Schedule](#) [2008 Democratic Primary Schedule](#)

State Primaries: May 6 [Indiana](#) - [North Carolina](#)

ARTICLE ALERT

Political news and commentary:

[Seven Ways to Fix Obama's Image Problem](#) (Howard Fineman, Newsweek)

[Mr. Obama and Rev. Wright](#) (The New York Times - Apr 30, 2008)

[Judgment, Character Are Paramount](#) (Stuart Taylor, National Journal)

[As Wright Speaks Out, New Problems for Obama?](#) (Kate Phillips, NY Times)

PODCAST: [Clinton Adviser Says 'Play Fair'](#) (Washingtonpost.com)

[Should We Worry About McCain's Temper?](#) (Christopher Hitchens, Slate)

[McCain the Militarist](#) (Matthew Yglesias, The American Prospect)

[The Axis of Evil: An Idiot's Guide](#) (David Frum, National Post)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webchats with U.S. Experts: [U.S. Elections](#)

Join [America.gov's elections experts](#) **Michelle Austein** and **George Burkes** on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss the people, processes and issues that shape the U.S. presidential race. They will answer your questions and talk about the latest events on the 2008 campaign trail.



Date & Time: **May 6, 2008**, 09:00 a.m. EDT (1300 GMT)

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